Borough of Abergavenny.

1945

Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Borough

Prepared by the Medical Officer of Health,

H. L. S. GRIFFITHS,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

THE 63RD ANNUAL REPORT.

Dover & Co, Abergavenny

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Alderman M. L. BEVERIDGE, J.P. (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Councillor F. T. ROSSER).

Alderman W. HORSINGTON.

Councillors NEWMAN.

POWELL.

REES.

TRANTER.

Medical Officer's Report for 1945.

MR. MAYOR, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present the Sixty-Third Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of Abergavenny, which is based on the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46 (Wales).

Statistics :		**1938**	**1945**
Area (in Acres)	...	2,398	2,398
Population (estimated)	...	7,925	8,275
Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Books)		2,366	2,314
Rateable Value	...	£49,304	£51,222
1d. Rate ...	...	£188	£198

Social conditions, including chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment :

The area of the Borough is 2,398 acres, but the added area is mostly rural in character, and includes most of the Sugar Loaf Mountain where are situated the Borough Reservoir, Pumping Station, Springs, etc.

Abergavenny is a prosperous County Town with large Cattle, Fruit, Farm and Produce Markets. It is also a Live Stock Grading Centre for the Ministry of Food.

It is a centre of the L.M.S. Railway, and is also served by the G.W. Railway, and a good service of Motor Buses is run in all directions to and from the Borough and adjoining villages and Towns.

There is one large Printing Factory and three smaller ones, one Engineering Works and Foundry, and one manufacturing Confectionery, with some small light industries.

The unemployment figure for Abergavenny and District with a population of some 16,000 showed a weekly average of 70 per week, or a weekly rate of .005 per 1000.

The Shops in the town are numerous, and cater not only for the town folk, but those of the large surrounding districts. The prosperity of the Borough as a whole is greatly affected by the prosperity of the Industrial Districts adjoining.

There is no particular occupation that adversely affects the Public Health of the Borough.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Total 1945	*M.*	*F.*		*1945 Borough*	*County*
Live Births—					
Legitimate 119	57	62	Birthrate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	17.0	18.5
Illegitimate 22	6	16			
Still Births—					
Legitimate ... 8	3	5	Rate per 1000 total (live & Stillbirths) Births ...	66 2	—
Illegitimate ... 2	1	1	Rate per 1000 popul'n	1.2	0.75
Deaths—					
All Causes ...120	67	53	Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	14.5	12.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis...	Nil	Rate per 1000 births (Live & Stillborn) ...	Nil	1.18
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1		6.6	2.03
Total ...	1	Total ...	6.6	3.21

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	64.5	55.6
Legitimate „ Legitimate Live Births		42.0	
Illegitimate „ Illegitimate „	...	181.8	

Deaths from Cancer– all ages...M 5. F 10. Total 15.
Average 65.8

Measles ...	Nil.
Whooping Cough ...	Nil.
Diarrhœa, under 2 yrs. of age ...	2.
Children under 1 yr. Total 9.	Legitimate 5. Illegitimate 4.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary 6.	
Non- „ 3.	Total 9.

Ages of Deaths of Children under one year of age—

Under 1 week	...	...	2	3.
1— to 2 weeks	...	...	—	
2— 3 ,,	...	...	1	
3— 4 ,,	...	...	—	
1— 3 months	...	...	1	6.
3— 6 ,,	...	...	3	
6— 9 ,,	...	...	1	
9— 12 ,,	...	...	1	
Total under 1 year		...		9.

Year.	Populations.		Live Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.
1931	8490 (Estimated)				
	8608 (Census)	...	137	119	16.10
1938	7925 (New Borough)	...	115	108	14.50
1939	7832 ,,	...	118	144	15.10
1940	8407 ,,	...	122	149	14.50
1941	8769 ,,	...	130	135	14.60
1942	8468 ,,	...	134	113	18.80
1943	8174 ,,	...	127	122	15.56
1944	7931 ,,	...	139	104	17.50
1945	8275 ,,	...	141	120	17.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. In September a sharp Scarlet Fever started and continued to the end of the year. There were 25 cases and were admitted to the Llanfoist Isolation Hospital. No deaths.

Whooping Cough. Eleven cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Measles. 7 cases were notified in first quarter of 1945 which ended the epidemic which started in October, 1944. There were no deaths.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitus. One case was notified but recovered.

Erysipelas. One case was notified.

Diphtheria. 5 cases were notified, one aged 35, two in children aged 12 and 14, who were only slightly ill. Each had had O.1 and O.3 A.P.T. in 1941. Two others aged 5 and 3 had not been immunised. There were no deaths.

Immunisation has been encouraged in all possible ways.

Number immunised in 1945—Age 1—5...103
Age 5-15... 13

Total...106

Tuberculosis.

Notified : Pulmonary M 4 F 4 Non-Pulmonary M 3 F 2
Deaths : „ M 4 F 2 „ M 2 F 1

Influenza. No severe epidemic. No deaths.

Notifiable Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) classified according to age groups.

Disease.	Total	Age 0—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	Over 25	Treated in Hospital
Diptheria ...	5	2	...	2	...	1	4
Scarlet Fever ...	25	9	8	6	1	1	20
C. S. Meningitus ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Measles ...	7	2	1	2	1	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	11	9	2	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
1—5	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—30	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
30—40	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
40—50	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
50—60	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
60—70	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Totals ..	4	4	3	2	4	2	2	1

H. L. S. GRIFFITHS, M.R.C.S., L.R C.P.

Water.

The Water is maintained in a pure state by chlorination. 9 samples of treated water were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. 3 bacteriological samples and one chemical analysis were found to be unsatisfactory. Necessary adjustments to the chlorine content were made immediately and satisfactory results were obtained. One sample was taken from a private raw supply in the added area and was found to be unsatisfactory. A new town's supply is proposed for that area.

There is no plumbo-solvency, and due to the prolonged periods of wet weather, the quantity adequate.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	229
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	305
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925	166
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	180
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	28

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequences of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 108

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners ... ...

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... ... Nil.

(a) By Owners ... ...

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..

(c) Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...

(d) Proceeding under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following table shows the Inspector's work regarding the eradication of bed bugs.

(a) Number of Council Houses :

(1)	Found infested	... 6
(11)	Disinfested	... 6

(b) Number of other Houses ;

(1)	Found infested	... 8
(11)	Disinfested	... 8

These houses were visited either in normal house-to-house inspections or as a result of complaints from the tenant.

Excellent results have been obtained by cleaning and scrubbing, carried out systematically with soap and water. In addition, sulphur fumigation and insecticide sprays were used, and in one case Hydrogen Cyanide was used.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply—

10 visits have been made to Cowsheds and Dairies.

1 sample of milk was taken and found unsatisfactory. The matter was taken up with the retailer and producer.

Meat and other Foods—

The Local Authority Abattoir, which was taken over by the Ministry of Food, serves the district of Abergavenny, Crickhowell, Bwlch, Nantyderry, and Gobion. A 100% inspection is maintained by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following tables showing the number killed, particulars of meat condemnations and incidence of disease.

Number Killed :

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
938	1010	11,223	2,133

Number Inspected :

938	1010	11,223	2,133

Total inspected—15,304.

All Diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcases condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
15	2	47	4

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
150	2	757	6

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis—6.5%.

Tuberculosis Only:

Whole carcase condemned—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
13	1	—	59

Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned:

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
99	—	—	130

Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis, 1.92

Other Foods Condemned were as follows:

Fresh Fish, 566lbs.; Tinned Fish, 352 Tins; Fresh Meat, 23lbs.; Tinned Meats, 98 Tins; Sausage, 7½lbs.; Bacon, 998½ lbs.; Chopped Ham, 13 Tins; Corned Beef, 72lbs.; Tongue 4lbs.; Pork and Beans, 46 Tins; Beans, 73 Tins; Stewed Steak, 4 Tins; Vegetable Stew, 189 Tins; Soup, 6 Tins; Broth 1 Tin; Meat and Vegetables, 30 Tins; Peas, 4 Tins; Tomato, 1 Tin; Syrup, 2 Tins; Salt, 11 Tins; Cheese, 8lbs.; Tea, 2¾lb.; Eggs, 4½ dozens; Lard, 64¼ lbs.; Milk, 1486 Tins; Sponge Pudding Mixture, 31 Tins and 39 Packets; Mince Meat, 1 Jar; Marmalade, 3 Jars and 2 Tins; Vinegar, 1 Bottle; Paste, 3 Jars; Jam, 8 Pots and 81 Tins; Pickles, 9 Bottles; Flour, 4 Packets; Mustard, 2 Jars; Pea Flour, 1 Packet; Marmite, 1 Jar; Bourn-Vita, 1 Tin; Salad Cream, 2 Bottles; Creamola, 1 Packet; Junket, 3 Packets; Essence, 3 Bottles; Coffee Extract, 1 Bottle; Dried Fruits, 51lbs.; Sultanas, 34¼lbs.; Prunes, 20lbs.; Raisins, 78lbs.; Pearl Barley, 1½lbs.; Rolled Oats, 224lbs.; Gravy Browning, 2 Bottles.

Inspection of Places where Food is prepared.

Restaurant Kitchens:—Including Licensed Premises where food is prepared, there are 11 in the Borough.

Fish Frying and Chip Potato Shops:—There are 3 in the Borough, and these are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports favourably as to their condition and absence of nuisance.

Bakehouses: —9 premises were in use during the year.
30 visits were made during the year.
4 notices of repairs and lime-washing, etc., were served.
The conditions generally were satisfactory.

Butchers: Small goods, including brawn, polonies, pies, faggots, etc., were prepared at 9 Butcher's establishments. At the Butcher's establishments the work is carried out in a special room, and electric power is available. All the premises are regularly visited by the Inspector, and the condition found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

25 visits were made. 1 Informal Notice and 5 Verbal Notices were given, and complied with.

RAINFALL IN 1945.

Rain Gauge ... Diameter of Funnel, 5 inches
Height of Top: Above Ground 1 ft.; " Sea Level 215 ft.
Situation: Bailey Park.

Month.		*Total Depth Inches.*
January	...	2.28
February	...	2.65
March	...	.94
April	...	1.50
May	...	3.13
June	...	2.87
July	...	2.32
August	...	4.88
September	...	2.70
October	...	5.59
November	...	.70
December	...	6 84
Total	...	36.40

R. J. HOWELLS, Cert. S.I.B., I.M. & O.F.